

REMARKS

The claims 3-27 are pending in this application. Claims 3-27 stand allowed. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 28-32 are canceled without prejudice to our disclaimer of this subject matter recited therein.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and /or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to for a typographical error. As claim 1 is canceled, the rejection of that claim is moot.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by JP2002-330027 to Koichi as evidenced by U.S. Patent 5,479,051 to Waki et al. (Waki). As claims 1 and 32 are canceled the rejection is moot.

As only allowed subject matter is pending in this application, this application is in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John W. Fitzpatrick
Registration No. 41,018

JAO:JWF/smo

Date: June 6, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION**

Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461